

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-7 remain pending in the application pursuant to a previous election, and claim 1 has been amended herein. Support for the amendments may be found in the application at least at page 29, line 1 to page 30, line 8 and Fig. 7. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being submitted herewith to obtain entry and consideration of the amendments.

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments and following remarks.

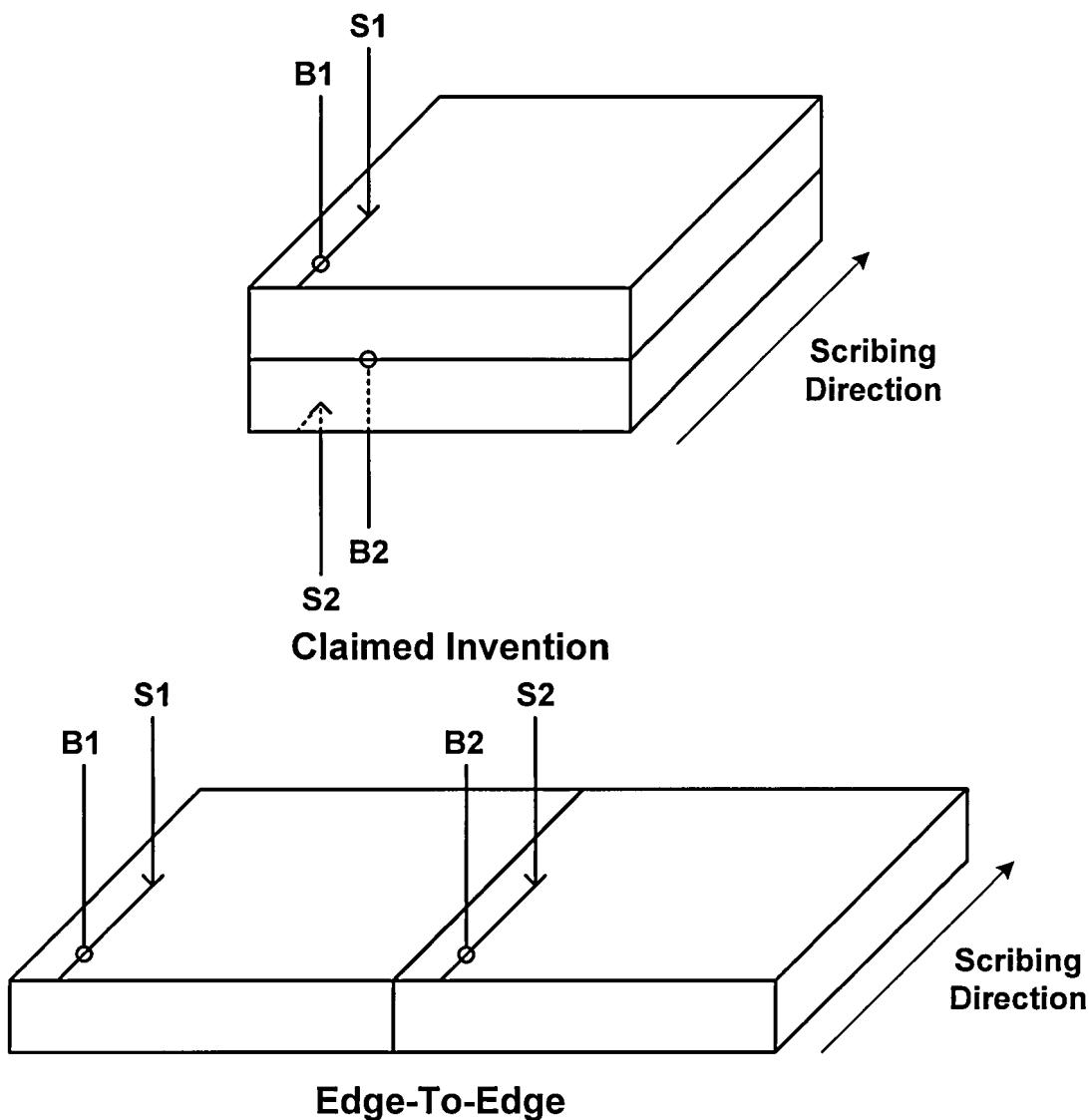
I. *Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)*

As further described below, independent claim 1 has been amended based on the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action of April 16, 2009. Aspects of the invention include a system for cutting on both sides of a bonded brittle material substrate having a first substrate and a second substrate. Two cutting devices each include a scribing portion for forming a scribing line, a breaking portion for breaking each respective substrate along the scribing line, and a backup portion for supporting the substrate. The first backup portion backs up the second scribing portion, and the second backup portion backs up the first scribing portion. The claim amendments clarify the correspondence between the scribing means/back up portion pairs.

Claim 1 again stands rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Masakazu, JP 10-338534 (Masakazu) in view of Fisher, U.S. Patent No. 4,210,052 (Fisher). Claims 4-7 stand rejected as being obvious over Masakazu and Fisher in view of a more tertiary reference. The rejections should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

In Advisory Action, the Examiner continues to maintain that a "bonded brittle material substrate," as referenced in the claims, can be two glass substrates bonded "**edge to edge**". Applicants submit that the orientation of the claimed scribing means and backup portions could not exist in an edge-to-edge configuration, and that the references do not otherwise disclose or suggest the

claimed invention. The differences between the claimed invention and the suggested “edge-to-edge” configuration are apparent from the figures below, which were presented in response to the previous Final Office Action.



As is apparent from the above, in the claimed configuration the first backup portion (B1) faces the second scribing means (S2) in correspondence with the portion being scribed by S2, and in this manner B1 “backs up” the scribing of S2. Similarly, the second backup portion (B2) faces the first scribing

means (S1) in correspondence with the portion being scribed by S1, and in this manner B2 “backs up” the scribing of S1. No such backing up feature could occur in the above edge-to-edge configuration.

In the current Advisory Action, however, the Examiner has taken the position that features that had been argued by Applicants are not actually claimed. In particular, the Examiner makes the following comments regarding purported deficiencies in the claim language:

- (1) “There is no language in the claims to dictate that the first and second cutting devices are opposite each other.”
- (2) “Nothing is defined in terms of a front facing or facing portion of the back up portions to dictate what is considered the facing direction.”
- (3) “The limitation of being in correspondence with the portion being scribed (of the alternative cutting device) does not necessitate that the back up portion is directly underneath the corresponding scribing means nor does it impart any particular structural relationship between the two.”

(See Advisory Action at page 2.)

In accordance with the Examiner’s first comment, claim 1 has been amended to recite in part:

a first cutting device located so as to face the first substrate, and
a second cutting device located on the opposite side of the bonded brittle material substrate relative to the first cutting device so as to face the second substrate and to oppose the first cutting device in a direction perpendicular to first and second respective surfaces of the substrates.

Accordingly, this portion of the claim amendments clarifies that the first and second scribing devices are located on opposite sides of the bonded substrate in an opposing configuration. In addition, in accordance with the Examiner’s second and third comments, claim 1 has been amended to recite in part:

the first cutting device further comprises a first back up portion which faces the second scribing means, the first back up portion

being located on the opposite side of the bonded brittle material substrate relative to the second scribing means and is aligned with the second scribing means in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the second substrate being scribed.

A corresponding amendment has been made regarding the second cutting device. Such amendments clarify what is meant by the “facing” direction in the claims, as well as reciting a perpendicular alignment of each scribing means/back up portion pair on opposite sides of the bonded substrate. Support for the amendments may be found in the application at least at page 29, line 1 to page 30, line 8 and Fig. 7.

In view of these amendments, the claimed invention is distinct from an “edge-to-edge” configuration as suggested by the Examiner. In particular, assuming such edge-to-edge configuration as depicted above, the first and second scribing means are not located on opposite sides of a bonded substrate in an opposing configuration as is now claimed. In addition, in the edge-to-edge configuration, the first back up portion (B1) does not “face” the second scribing means (S2), and the second back up portion (B2) does not “face” the first scribing means (S1), with the specific alignment now recited in independent claim 1. There simply would be no backing up function in an edge-to-edge configuration.

According to the Examiner, Masakazu discloses a cutting system having one scribing portion 43, one breaking portion 50, and one purported backup portion 42 positioned **on one side of a substrate**. Fisher discloses a device in which multiple cutting systems 12 are provided so as to form multiple longitudinal scoring lines, **also on one side of a substrate**. Thus, as Applicants previously argued and demonstrated in response to previous Office Actions, a combination of the references does not result in, disclose, or suggest providing scribing systems on **both sides** of a bonded substrate as claimed.

The Examiner has taken the position that a “bonded brittle material substrate,” as referenced in the claims, can be two glass substrates bonded edge to edge. (See Final Office Action at pages 2, 3, and 4; Advisory Action at page 2.) Based on the current claim amendments, an edge-to-edge configuration cannot be considered as corresponding to the claimed invention. The claims, therefore, are not obvious over Masakazu in view of Fisher, and the rejections should be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reason, claims 1 and 4-7 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988, reference number YAMAP0962US.

Respectfully submitted,

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